

SWITCHING REGULATOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a switching regulator.

2. Description of the Related Art

As a switching regulator, there have been known methods of adjusting a maximum duty ratio as shown in a circuit diagram of Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, a switching regulator circuit includes: an error amplifier 10 for comparing a voltage obtained by dividing an output voltage V_{out} of the switching regulator by resistances 2 and 3 and a voltage of a reference voltage source 4; and a comparator 7 for making a comparison among an output voltage V_r of the error amplifier 10, an output voltage of an oscillator 1 for generating a triangular wave, and a voltage V_p divided by resistances 5 and 6.

An output voltage EXT of the comparator 7 is used to drive a switching transistor of the switching regulator. As shown in Figs. 4A and 4B, the comparator 7 compares an output of the oscillator 1 and a value of the lower one of the voltages V_r and V_p .

In other words, even if the voltage V_{out} drops and the voltage V_r reaches a high voltage level, as shown in Fig. 4B, a duty ratio of the voltage EXT by no means exceeds a maximum duty ratio defined on the basis of the voltage V_p .

Further, in some conventional methods, one more oscillator

circuit that oscillates at the same frequency is adopted to adjust the maximum duty ratio (see, for example, JP 2000-217340 A).

In addition, in some conventional methods, a circuit for outputting a voltage depending on a power source voltage is used to adjust the maximum duty ratio (see, for example, JP 11-235025 A).

In the conventional methods of adjusting the maximum duty ratio, however, the voltage V_p needs to be adjusted using the two resistances 5 and 6, which causes a problem in that the two resistances occupy a larger packaging area.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, with a view to solving the above-mentioned problems inherent to the prior art, it is an object of the present invention to adjust a maximum duty ratio of a switching regulator using one resistance.

In order to attain the above-mentioned object, a method of adjusting the maximum duty ratio of the switching regulator according to the present invention includes adjusting a resistance value of only one resistance to enable a circuit with an adjustable maximum duty ratio.

A switching regulator according to the present invention includes: a first terminal for inputting an output voltage of the switching regulator; a reference voltage source for generating a

reference voltage; a voltage divider circuit for dividing the output voltage of the switching regulator; and an error amplifier for inputting the reference voltage and an output signal of the voltage divider circuit. Further, the switching regulator includes: a first circuit block having a resistance, for outputting a signal that varies depending on a resistance value of the resistance; and a second circuit block having a square wave oscillator, for outputting a signal based on an output signal of the square wave oscillator and an output signal of the first circuit block, a third circuit block having a logic circuit for receiving the output signal of the square wave oscillator and the output signal of the second circuit block to output a signal, and a circuit for outputting an output signal, which is controlled based on an output of the logic circuit; and a comparator for receiving an output of the error amplifier and the output signal of the third circuit block to output a signal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a circuit diagram of a switching regulator in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 2A to 2F are waveform charts related to the circuit diagram of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a circuit diagram of a conventional switching regulator; and

Figs. 4A and 4B are waveform charts related to the circuit diagram of Fig. 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Hereinafter, an embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. Fig. 1 is a circuit diagram of a switching regulator in accordance with the embodiment of the present invention.

A circuit block A including a constant current source 28, transistors 25, 27, and 29, and a resistance 26 serves to generate a gate voltage V_{refd} of a transistor 23. When a resistance value of the resistance 26 increases, the gate voltage V_{refd} increases to allow a larger amount of current to flow through the transistor 23. In contrast, when the resistance value of the resistance 26 decreases, the gate voltage V_{refd} decreases to lessen the amount of current flowing through the transistor 23.

A circuit block B including an oscillator 24 that outputs a square wave, the transistor 23 having a current value that varies depending on the resistance value of the resistance 26, and a capacitor 21 serves to generate a gate voltage V_s of a transistor 20.

As shown in Fig. 2B, during a time period in which an output voltage V_r of the oscillator 24 is low (L), the capacitor 21 is charged with the current flowing through the transistor 23. Subsequently, as shown in Fig. 2C, when a potential of the voltage

V_s exceeds a threshold voltage of the transistor 20, an output voltage V_t of an inverter 30 is inverted. A time period from the start of the charging of the capacitor 21 to the inversion of the voltage V_t is defined depending on the current flowing through the transistor 23, a capacitance of the capacitor 21, and a level of the subthreshold voltage of the transistor 20.

The output V_r of the oscillator 24 and the output voltage V_t of the inverter 30 are inputted to a NOR circuit 31. As shown in Fig. 2D, an output voltage V_u of the NOR circuit 31 becomes high (H) during a time period from the start of the charging of the capacitor 21 to the inversion of the voltage V_t .

While the voltage V_u is low (L), a capacitor 17 is charged by a constant current source 15. As shown in Fig. 2E, during a time period in which a voltage V_x is completely at a low (L) level, the voltage V_u is high (H).

An output voltage of an error amplifier 13 for comparing a voltage obtained by dividing the output voltage V_{out} of the switching regulator by resistances 11 and 12 and an output voltage of a reference voltage source 14 is compared with the voltage V_x by a comparator 16. When the voltage V_{out} drops, an output voltage V_z of the error amplifier 13 drops, so that a duty ratio of an output voltage EXT of the comparator 16 increases. However, at least during a time period in which the voltage V_x is completely at the low (L) level, the voltage EXT is low.

Based on the foregoing, by adjusting the resistance value of the resistance 26 alone, the maximum duty ratio of the voltage EXT can be adjusted.

As described above, according to the method of adjusting the maximum duty ratio of the switching regulator of the present invention, by adjusting the resistance value of only one resistance, the maximum duty ratio can be adjusted. Consequently, the requisite number of resistances in the circuit can be reduced, resulting in reduction in packaging area of the circuit of the switching regulator.